

we can change hearts and minds as well.

CHILDREN AND HEALTHCARE WEEK

Mr. HOLLINGS. Madam President, each day many of our Nation's children face illnesses that require a doctor's office or hospital visit. This can be a frightening experience, and underscores the need to provide quality pediatric health services, while easing the stress children and their families feel. The week of March 18th in Greenville, SC, The Greenville Hospital System Children's Hospital is celebrating Children and Healthcare Week with a number of valuable activities for health care professionals, parents, and community partners.

The activities are aimed at increasing public, parental, and professional knowledge of the improvements that can be made in pediatric health care. In particular, it stresses new ways to meet the emotional and developmental needs of children in health care settings. Among the scheduled events are: continuing education classes for medical residents and support staff, an awards ceremony to honor local individuals who have dedicated their lives to pediatric care, a special tribute service to honor children, and a family event for employees. Lack of quality health care should never be an impediment to the long-term success of our nation's children, and I commend Greenville's dedication to Children and Healthcare Week.

RECOGNITION OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Mr. SARBANES. Madam President, I rise today in recognition of Women's History Month. This time has been appropriately designated to reflect upon the important contributions and heroic sacrifices that women have made to our Nation and to consider the challenges they continue to face. Throughout our history, women have been at the forefront of every important movement for a better and more just society, and they have been the foundation of our families and communities.

In Maryland, we are proud to honor those women who have given so much to improve our lives. Their achievements illustrate their courage and tenacity in conquering overwhelming obstacles. They include Margaret Brent, who became America's first woman lawyer and landholder, and Harriet Tubman, who risked her own life to lead hundreds of slaves to freedom through the Underground Railroad. Dr. Helen Taussig, another great Marylander, developed the first successful medical procedure to save "blue babies" by repairing heart birth defects. Her efforts laid the groundwork for modern heart surgery. We are all indebted to Mary Elizabeth Garrett and Martha Carey Thomas who donated money to create Johns Hopkins Med-

ical School on the condition that women be admitted. And jazz music would not be complete without the unforgettable voice of jazz singer Billie Holiday who also hailed from Baltimore City. Their accomplishments and talent provide inspiration not only to Marylanders, but to people all over the globe.

My good friend and colleague from Maryland, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, is a tremendous example of the commitment and dedication women give to public service. From her background as a social worker to her election to the U.S. Senate, Senator MIKULSKI, who has served longer than any other woman currently in the Senate has always worked to ensure all people are treated fairly. She appropriately played a key role in establishing this month when in 1981, she cosponsored a resolution establishing National Women's History Week, a predecessor to Women's History Month. Today, I wish to honor her dedication and service to the people of Maryland and this Nation.

While we recognize famous women, it is important that we acknowledge the contributions of others who daily touch our lives: Our favorite teacher who gives us the confidence and knowledge to know that we were capable of success; the single mother or grandmother who toiled at a low-paying job for years to guarantee that the next generation in her family received better education and career opportunities; and the professional women who volunteer the little spare time they have to read to children or speak to student groups, inspiring young people to aim for goals beyond what they may have otherwise imagined.

Women's History Month is a fitting time to honor the women of the Armed Services who risk their lives in our fight against terrorism. From the American Revolution and the Civil War through modern day armed conflict, American women have sacrificed next to their husbands, sons, brothers and fathers to preserve the freedom upon which this Nation was founded. Currently, more than 6,000 women in the Armed Services are courageously fighting in our war against terrorism and almost 15 percent of the 1.4 million soldiers volunteering in our military are women. These modern day heroines, giving of their time, knowledge, and lives should not be taken for granted.

Women have made great strides in overcoming historic adversity and bias but they still face many obstacles. Unequal pay, poverty, inadequate access to healthcare and violent crime are among the challenges that continue to disproportionately affect women. Working women earn 74 cents to every dollar earned by men. What is more troubling is that the more education a woman has, the wider the wage gap. According to a recent Census Bureau report, the average American woman loses approximately \$523,000 in wages and benefits over a lifetime because of

wage inequality. Families with a female head of household have the highest poverty rate and comprise the majority of poor families.

Women continue to be under-represented in high-paying professions and lag significantly behind men in enrollment in science programs. A recent General Accounting Office study found that, after controlling for education, age and race, women managers still earned less than full-time male managers. Increasing the number of senior level women in all fields begins with encouraging girls' interest and awareness in school illustrating that their options are limitless.

As our population ages, we must also address the special challenges of older women. Women live an average of 6 years longer than men. Consequently, their reduced pay is even more detrimental given their increased life expectancy as they are forced to live on less money for a longer period of time. In addition, more women over age 65 tend to live alone at a time when illness and accidents due to decreased mobility are more likely. For these women, it is imperative that we guarantee that Social Security and Medicare remain solvent for future generations.

I believe we should use this month as an opportunity to reflect not only on the achievements and challenges of American women, but to recognize those of women internationally. We know that a variety of ills hinder the potential of women in many parts of the world, labor practices that oppress women and girls, the rapid spread of HIV and AIDS, and limited or non-existence suffrage rights. We must broaden access to education, the political process, and reproductive health globally so that girls and women everywhere can maximize their options. To have a credible voice in the international arena, the United States must lead by example, showing that American women enjoy these rights fully.

During my service in Congress, I have strongly supported efforts to address women's issues and eradicate gender discrimination and inequality. I have co-sponsored the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would provide more effective remedies to victims of wage discrimination on the basis of sex. I have also supported the Equity in Prescription Insurance and Contraceptive Coverage Act, which would prohibit health insurance plans from excluding or restricting benefits for prescription contraception if the plan covers other prescription drugs. In order to build a national repository of the contributions of women to our Nation's history, I co-sponsored legislation to establish a National Museum of Women's History Advisory Committee. In addition, I remain a consistent supporter of an equal rights amendment to the Constitution. I am proud of these efforts and I will continue my commitment to bring fuller equality to all women.

While obstacles remain, women have achieved impressive progress. This